

Amendments to the Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A slitter device, comprising:  
a first rotatable shaft extending axially through a first cutting blade;  
a second rotatable shaft disposed substantially parallel to the first rotatable shaft;  
a second cutting blade having the second rotatable shaft extending axially therethrough,  
the second cutting blade being axially movable relative to the second rotatable shaft ~~such that the second cutting blade can be adjusted to maintain a cutting position adjacent to the first cutting blade and in a fixed spaced relation from the first cutting blade so as to compensate for blade wear;~~

a collar having the second rotatable shaft extending axially therethrough, the collar being configured to be capable of fixedly engaging the second rotatable shaft so as to axially fix the second cutting blade with respect to the second rotatable shaft, wherein the collar comprises a ~~non-contiguous ring, defining an angular gap~~ a radially-outward threaded surface; and

~~at least one securing member capable of operably engaging the collar so as to secure the collar to the second rotatable shaft, the securing member comprising a fastening device capable of operably engaging the collar, across the gap, so as to reduce the gap and provide a friction engagement between the collar and the second rotatable shaft.~~

a first sleeve having the collar extending axially therethrough, the first sleeve disposed axially adjacent to a first side of the second cutting blade, the first sleeve comprising a first radially-inward threaded surface configured for operably engaging the radially outward threaded surface of the collar such that the first sleeve is axially adjustable relative to the collar; and

a second sleeve having the collar extending axially therethrough, the second sleeve disposed axially adjacent to an opposing second side of the second cutting blade such that the first sleeve and the second sleeve cooperate to secure the second cutting blade therebetween, the second sleeve comprising a second radially-inward threaded surface configured for operably engaging the radially outward threaded surface of the collar such that the first sleeve is axially adjustable relative to the collar and such that the second cutting blade can be adjusted to maintain a cutting position adjacent to the first cutting blade and in a fixed spaced relation from the first cutting blade so as to compensate for blade wear.

2. – 5. (Cancelled)

6. (Original) A device according to Claim 1, wherein at least one of the first and second cutting blades is substantially circular in profile.

7. (Original) A device according to Claim 1, wherein at least one of the first and second cutting blades is non-circular in profile.

8.-10. (Cancelled)

11. (New) A device according to Claim 1, wherein the second cutting blade is rotationally secured to at least one of the first sleeve and the second sleeve.

12. (New) A device according to Claim 1, further comprising at least one pin extending axially from at least one of the first sleeve and the second sleeve to engage a corresponding axially-extending aperture defined by the second cutting blade so as to rotationally secure the second cutting blade at least one of the first sleeve and the second sleeve.